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Chapter I
Introduction

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Preface

Although called by different names through the more than twenty-three years since its establishment as the Office of Collection and Dissemination (OCD) on 10 September 1946, the present Central Reference Service (CRS) is the only DDI element at the Office level with a continuous history and unique identity throughout this period. Other functional elements (e.g., [REDACTED] may trace the ancestry of their particular trade back farther in time but none has been an Office as long as CRS. Indeed CRS is appreciably older than the C/DDI and was established first as an Office reporting directly to the DCI. Unlike the Office of Reports and Estimates (ORE), which was the common ancestor of much of the DDI (and of parts of CRS, too!), CRS just barely escaped the violent reorganization of late 1950 and continues today with essentially the same functions it then possessed.

This study covers the period from 1953, the terminal date of an earlier history prepared by the DCI Historical Staff, to mid-1967, when CRS adopted a radically new pattern of organization and management, and

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entered upon an intensive period of development and modernization—
albeit with a greatly reduced staff. The earlier document ^{tells} ~~relates~~
how various functionally related elements were brought together under
single management and describes the beginnings of a reference center.
This paper attempts to show how the concept of a central reference
activity developed and was modified in the years that followed.

1 - city class in Soviet text